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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/779,985	02/17/2004	David Huang	EQUUS-106A	8892

7590 07/23/2008
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EXAMINER

BROADHEAD, BRIAN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3664

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/23/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/779,985	Applicant(s) HUANG, DAVID	
	Examiner Brian J. Broadhead	Art Unit 3664	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 April 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 24-34 and 36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24-34 and 36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 24-34, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alfaro et al., 5491418, in view of Mitcham et al, EPA420-R-00-017

3. Alfaro et al. disclose connecting a protocol specific connector to a handheld diagnostic device, identifying physical features of the connector, the physical features directly identifying at least one diagnostic standard associated with the vehicle under test and being unrelated to vehicle information other than the identification of the standard, identifying communications protocols associated with the standard, retrieving configuration data associated with the communication protocol, and configuring the diagnostic device in accordance with the retrieved configuration data on line 58, on column 1, through line 2, on column 2; the step of identifying physical features of the connector includes identifying the connector connectivity configuration and identifying the connector pin configuration on lines 40-50, on column 3, and lines 24-28, on column 3; the step of identifying physical features of the connector comprises performing a continuity test to identify whether continuity exists between specific pins of the connector on lines 55-60, on column 3; determining if the connector is a standard OBD-2 connector on line 2, on column 3, SAE J 1962 is the specification for OBD-2 DLCs;

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the method is performed with the device disconnected from the vehicle diagnostic port on lines 55-64, on column 3, here it states the connector provides the configuration information and connection to the vehicle is not required; a CPU 78, memory on lines 31-32, on column 8; a protocol specific connector for connecting the device to the diagnostic port (10); the connector having features recognizable by the CPU as corresponding to at least one associated comm. protocol on lines 1-35, on column 3; a look up table identifying diagnostic configuration data on lines 25-34, on column 8; and the CPU configuring the diagnostic device in accordance with the configuration data on lines 45-67, on column 6.

4. Alfaro et al. do not disclose the at least one communication protocol being identified based upon identification of the two pins connected there between and serially polling the OBD systems using each of the plurality of communication protocols until successful communication is established between the device and the vehicle OBD, or this is accomplished with a sequencer. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to multiple circuit elements 22, which would include jumpers, since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. Alfaro et al. already discloses examining electrical characteristics between pins to determine the communication protocol. Using multiple circuit elements (22) is just an obvious modification that would allow even more communication protocols to be identified.

5. Alfaro et al. disclose the limitations as set forth above. They do not disclose serially polling the OBD systems using each of the plurality of communication protocols

until successful communication is established between the device and the vehicle OBD, or this is accomplished with a sequencer. Mitcham et al. teaches that the OBD-2 regulations adopted by the federal government require automatic hands-off determination of the communication protocol on page 6. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the teaching of Mitcham et al. in the invention of Alfaro et al. because it would make the device of Alfaro et al. comply with government regulations.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 4-14-08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant has argues that Alfaro discloses that every possible vehicle will have its own vehicle specific connector and that this will require hundreds, if not more, of connectors. This position is not agreed with because on line 10-24, on column 3, Alfaro makes it clear that there is only a one connector adapter per type of vehicle connector being connected to. For instance, for OBD II, you would only need one connector for the whole range of newer vehicles on the road. Alfaro does disclose that information such as make and model **may** be included in the vehicle connector but this would only apply to the older vehicles where the manufacturer only used that one specific adapter on one specific model.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian J. Broadhead whose telephone number is (571)272-6957. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday or Tuesday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Khoi Tran can be reached on 571-272-6919. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/BJB/

/Khoi H Tran/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3664